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KID FRIENDLY TORAH MAGAZINE
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JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

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SEASON 9, EPISODE 25
.....

**PARSHAS ACHAREI MOS-
KEDOSHIM 5785**



Torat Scene-A-Eye

*This features an AI generated picture that has numerous hints to the weekly parsha.
This week's is about Parshas Acharei Mos and Kedoshim*

Disclaimer: These AI generated images are NOT meant to portray actual people or events from the Torah. They are simply hints to get you thinking.

DVAR TORAH

SLOTCHY

.....

"Fear of God is like stepping on Lego."

King David

Though there's a chance I may have slightly altered (by which I mean, completely made up) that quote, there's a lot of truth in the concept. Before you start throwing Lego at my head, I'll try to explain myself.

If I'd tell you, "I'm afraid of the Police," what would that mean to you? I think the assumption would be that I may have done something illegal. Why else would I be afraid of the police? Maybe I committed a crime like removing tags from a pillow, or putting a recyclable container in the garbage. When we speak of 'fear of God,' I think most people assume the same thing. It means, "Don't do bad stuff because God will zap you," Don't eat that, say that, think that, because it's wrong and you should be scared of God. Yet that's not at all the way it's described by the greater medieval thinker, Rabbeinu Yonah. He says that the concept of Yiras Shamayim, fear of heaven, is defined by doing positive mitzvos, not by avoiding negative ones. I

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Deep Thoughts

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*If there are
biscuits and
triscuits, what
are monoscuits?*



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.....

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DVAR TORAH

CONTINUED

.....
like to think of Yiras shamayim as understanding the gravity of the commandments, taking them seriously, and truly understanding how important it is to do so.

He points out that the one source in the Torah for this idea of fearing God is mentioned in reference to positive commandments! In our parsha, the Torah says, "Stand for an aged person, and honor a sage, and fear your God..." The Torah is commanding us to rise before a Torah scholar or an elderly person as a sign of respect. That's a wonderful positive good deed. Where does 'fear' come in? The Talmud explains that a person who sees an elderly person approaching at a distance might close their eyes and either pretend not to see them, or put themselves in a position where they actually won't see them coming, so as not to have to stand up. "Fear your God" is the admonition not to play those games.

While I'll admit that's lazy, it's also pretty surprising that it would be covered under 'Fear your God.' After all, this guy isn't actually doing anything wrong! There's no requirement to stand for someone who comes into your vicinity if you don't know they're there. Closing your eyes before they reach you isn't illegal. It doesn't violate any negative commandments. In fact it doesn't even really violate any positive mitzvos! So what's with the "Fear yo' God?" If we understand that Yiras Shamayim means taking God seriously and respecting His will, then we can also understand that using a loophole to get out of a mitzvah is kinda the opposite of taking it seriously.

Which brings us to King David who writes, "Mistakes of my heel surround me." The Midrash explains it by talking about different Lego sizes. Lego generally comes in three sizes, regular Lego, Duplo, which is bigger, and Quatro which is massive. Which one is the most painful to step on? Not the large, clunky versions. Those are easy to avoid. It's those sneaky small pieces that can hide in the carpet like a viper crouching in tall grass. King David mentions "mistakes of the heel," referencing small obstacles that are easily stepped on." Well,



ANSWER ON PAGE 3

Question of the Week

.....
What mitzvah (in this week's parsha) references the numbers three, four and five?



LOLZ

.....
How did the duck get rid of its headache?

Quackupuncture.

OK. The midrash might use large and small rocks instead of my Lego analogy, but that's just because those Talmudic scholars were worried about copyright infringement.

This is a shift in how to look at God's commandments. This concept of Yiras shamayim helps us recognize that it's very easy to miss small opportunities that add up. We are reminded to look upon the commandments as what they are; seriously important rules that are provided by our great master. With this in mind, our feet will be safer, and so will our choices.



46

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION



71

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION



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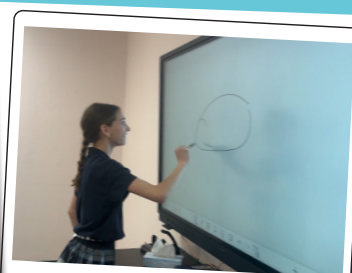
Answer of the Week

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The mitzvah is called
"Orlah." When a new
fruit tree is planted,
the fruits are forbidden
for the first THREE
years, then may only
be eaten in Jerusalem
during the FOURTH
year, and may be eaten
anywhere in the FIFTH
year.



Enjoyed our year-end
programs with about 75
Jewish middle schoolers in
Phoenix/ Scottsdale this week



We're so excited about our new
Jewish club at the Meadows
Middle school in Las Vegas
that started this week!

DID JEW KNOW?

The combination of Acharei Mos and Kedoshim,
this week's readings, contains 79 of the Torah's 613
commandments.

That is the world record!

Torat Scene-A-Eye Explained

*This week is a double parsha, with very different themes.
Acharei Mos deals primarily with the Yom Kippur service, which
involves the Holy sanctuary, 2 goats, the Kohen Gadol and
more. I'm not sure why there's a bowl of gum drops.
Kedoshim deals with many interpersonal mitzvos.*



NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-
NA-NA-NAGEELA



How much do you love
being Jewish?

PARSHAL PARSHA

*a brief summary of the weekly
Torah porshon*

PARSHAS ACHAREI MOS

WE GET HOLY-DAY INSTRUCTIONS AND
RULES ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

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- Aaron's two elder sons had died when they entered a holy place inappropriately. Aaron is therefore commanded never to enter the holiest part of the Temple, except with a special service
- For the parts of the Yom Kippur service that involved entering the holiest place, Aaron wore only linen clothing, none of his bling.
- Aaron (or the Kohen Gadol in later generations) would choose two goats, and use a lottery system to decide which one would go 'For God', meaning it would be brought as a sacrifice, and which would go 'For Azazel', which means it was pushed off a cliff in the desert.
- The Kohen would then burn incense (smokey, smelly stuff) and bring it inside the holiest sanctuary, behind the curtain
- He would sprinkle the blood of a bull on the ark.
- He would sprinkle the blood of a bull and a goat on the altar.
- Many other steps were involved in the Yom Kippur service, all listed in the Mussaf service we recite on Yom Kippur.
- The Torah then commands us to keep Yom Kippur as a kind of 'super- Shabbat'.
- We are forbidden from bringing any animal offerings outside the Holy Temple.
- Wait, stop! Put down that glass of Snapple blood- ice tea. We are forbidden to drink blood. Whew.
- When we slaughter wild animals or birds, there's a special mitzvah to cover their blood. I think it's so the blood fairy (a close relative to the toothy kind) can leave a dollar
- The Torah gives us many rules of morality and tells us which marriages and relationships are allowed and disallowed.
- The Parsha concludes by mentioning that oh, BTW, if we don't keep these laws, the land of Israel might get an upset stomach and spew us out, just like the people before us. I don't know about you but I don't want to get spewed.



PARSHAS KEDOSHIM

WE LEARN THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF
RULES TO MAKING US HOLY

.....

- This parsha gives many instructions, 51 to be exact, all centered around the idea of being 'holy'
- Here is just a partial list of the instructions listed in this week's portion:
- A person has got to act with recurrence toward his parents. That includes not contradicting them. I'm only saying that because my parents told me to. Also, because of mothers day.
- When bringing a sacrifice, even thinking about doing it wrong can invalidate it
- The Torah tells us not to trip a blind person. That seems like a really cruel thing to do, unless you're one of the three stooges- right up their alley.
- The commandment not to trip a blind person, is actually meant as a warning not to cause someone else to do something against the Torah, like feeding a person food that isn't kosher, or asking someone to put pineapple on pizza.
- There's a mitzvah not to be a peddler. I like to pedal my bike, by I suspect this means something else, like not to tell stories that will cause hatred between people.
- Two wrongs don't make a right, but three rights make a left. In other words, don't take revenge.
- When planting a tree, the fruit may not be eaten for three years after it's planted (or four years, depending on where you are)
- Sorry Darth Maul, tattoos are against the Torah. Hey, what do you call a skin marking done by a ballet dancer? A tatutu.
- As important as it is to build the holy temple, it does not justify breaking Shabbos.
- It's vital to be honest in business.
- We are instructed not to act like the nations of the world.

STUMP THE RABBI

StumptheRabbi is a forum where kids can ask
ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to
stump@nageelawest.org

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been
changed.

MOON NIGHT

A BRAND NEW STUMP THE RABBI, MADE IN THE USA #280

Hi Rabbi,

I was told that Rosh Chodesh is a holiday for women. Since it's just the first day of the month, what would that be special for women? And if it is special, what does that mean? In what way is it celebrated? I've never heard of a Rosh Chodesh Seder...

Thanks,
Luna Levana

Dear Luna,

Many years ago, the United States and the Soviet Union were racing to see who could get to the moon first. The US won, so the Russians got a constellation prize.

You're right that Rosh Chodesh is a holiday for women, and I'll try to explain it, but let me first give a little background for our readers on what RC is to begin with. In the simplest sense, Rosh Chodesh means the beginning (or literally head) of the month. Jewish culture is very calendar focused, with many happy days, sad days, in between days... you get the idea. Since the Jewish calendar is based mostly on the moon (but not totally- for more info on the Jewish calendar, take a peek at season 3, episode 11), we measure our months and our 'monthheads' by the new moon. Meaning, the moon starts at the beginning of each month as a tiny sliver and keeps getting larger and larger, hitting the full moon around the 15th of the month. It then goes on a diet and wanes until it disappears from view completely. When it reappears, that's Rosh Chodesh. It's an important way to measure time, and to be able to know when holidays arrive. So what makes it a holiday?

First and foremost, the Torah actually labels Rosh Chodesh as special by giving it unique Mussaf offerings. What that means is that when we had a holy temple, basic offerings were brought daily, but special offerings were brought on special days, called Mussaf. Rosh Chodesh is specifically mentioned in the Torah as a day with those offerings. In modern times, we aren't slaughtering any oxen, but we do add a Mussaf prayer service, a Torah reading, and we recite Hallel, a compilation of praise that we reserve for special days.



So

y e s ,

Rosh Chodesh

is an important

day, though not a full holiday. So a quasi-holiday? A qualiday? It's significance is primarily because it helps organize the calendar, among other, more mystical and esoteric reasons that I won't get into. But why is it special for women?

There are a number of Midrashic sources about this and most tell the story of a metallic bovine. Err, yeah, I'm referring to the Golden Calf. You may remember that the Jewish people, in an excited frenzy, happily donated their jewelry to the construction of the calf. That was a bad thing to do. Yet it seems that it was primarily the men who offered their own jewelry, while the women refused to contribute to the nefarious cause. As a reward, women were given a special holiday, Rosh Chodesh, on which it's appropriate for women to avoid working. Additionally, the women were the first to be willing to donate to the construction of the mishkan (which debunks the possibility that the women's refusal was just because they were stingy). Since the mishkan was completed on the first of Nissan (rosh chodesh), they got the Rosh Chodesh feature installed. Additionally, women have clear connections with the moon and the lunar cycle, which is something many cultures recognize.

Now it's a little unclear in what way women should celebrate their special holiday, but most authorities agree that women either should not do work, or perhaps shouldn't be forced to do work on Rosh Chodesh. This doesn't mean that a woman may not go to work or school (sorry girls). It's largely based on custom. Many women avoid doing laundry. Or lunadry? Hopefully this info will give you a crater appreciation of this qualiday.

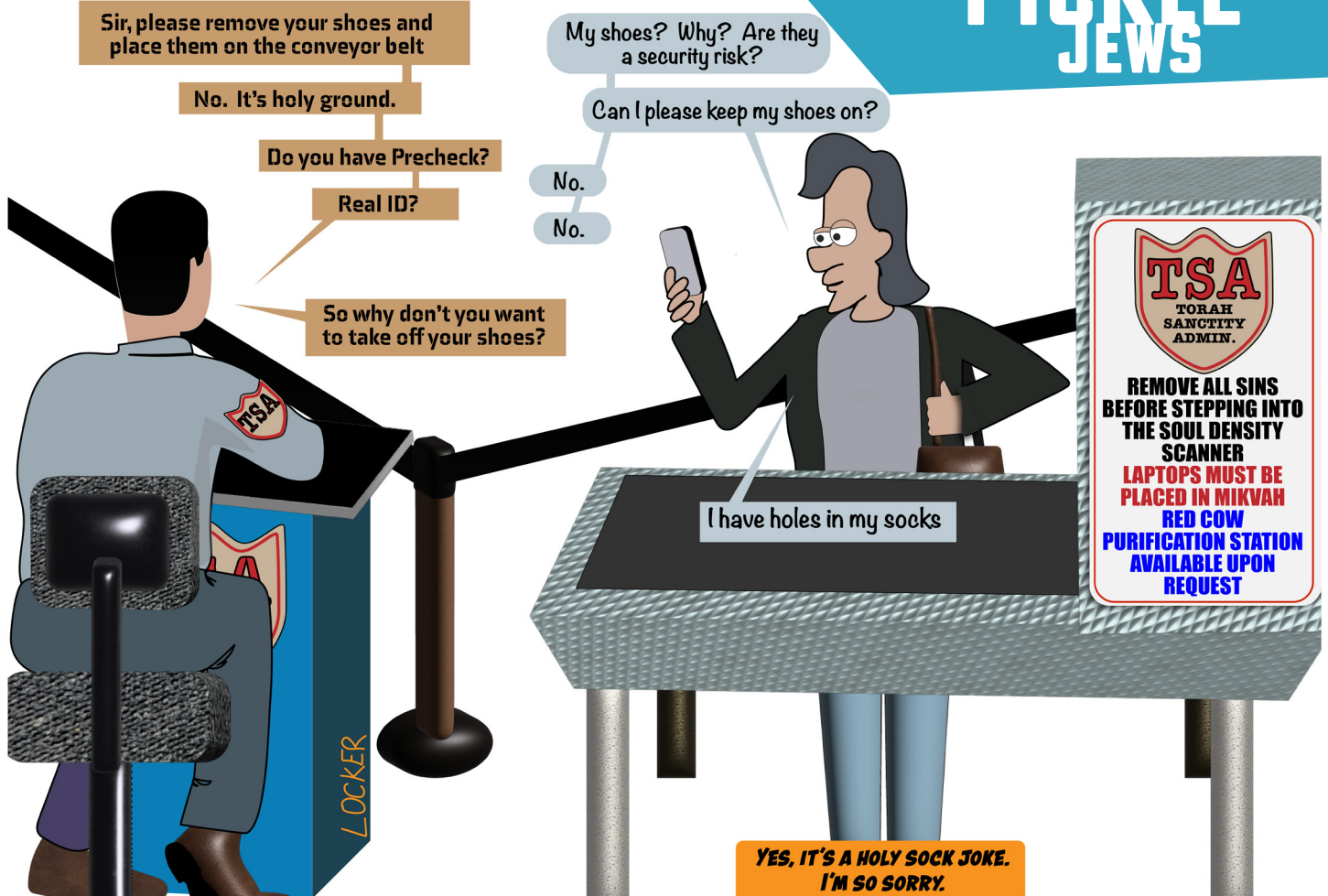
Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi



Note & Disclaimer: We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way. The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.

PICKLE JEWS



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801-613-1539